

Remarks

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. The Applicant has not made any amendments in connection with this response.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shirle et al (US 5,956,203). The Examiner uses Figs. 1 and 2 of Schirle as the primary basis of the rejection.

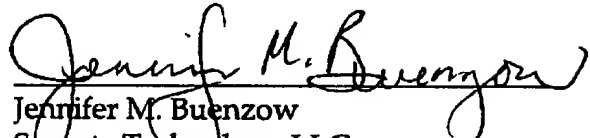
The Examiner asserts that in connection with independent claims 1, 5, and 12 Schirle discloses all of the claimed elements of the present invention. This is simply not the case. In Shirle, the airflow is diverted by shroud insert 24 through the magnetic gap and toward and over the voice motor coil 22, which is away from the actuator and the interior of the drive. (See Col. 3, Lines 56-60). This is unlike the present invention, where a method is provided where the airflow generated by the rotating discs is directed back to the interior of the drive by a J-shaped channel 172. The flow traveling along the edge of the disc is received in the channel 172 and redirected toward the inner diameter of the disc. This flow is then combined with the remaining circumferential flow from the rotating disc(s) to have a substantial inward radial component, as is claimed in claims 1, 5 and 12.

Based on the above discussion, it is clear that all of the elements as found in the pending independent claims are not present in Shirle, thus precluding the reference from anticipating the present invention. As such, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1,5, and 12 are allowable over Shirle. By virtue of their dependency on one of the independent claims, claims 2-4, 6-11 and 13-15 are also submitted to be allowable.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests for reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and for allowance of the pending claims 1-15. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,
Seagate Technology LLC
(Assignee of the Entire Interest)

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Date


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